

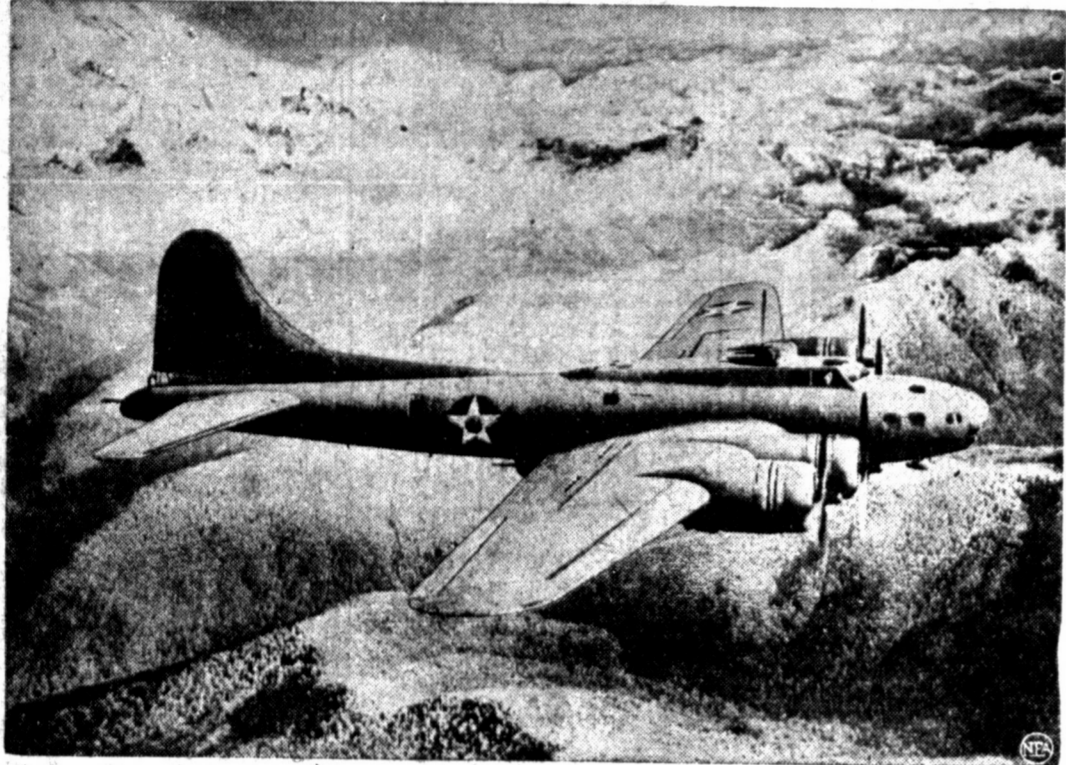
The Weather

West Texas: Snow with strong winds tonight over the Panhandle and South Plains. Colder in the Panhandle and South Plains tonight.

THE PAMPA NEWS

(VOL. 39, NO. 283)

(10 PAGES TODAY) FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 1942 PAMPA, TEXAS Wide World News Service-Full AP Leased Wire (PRICE FIVE CENTS)



OUR NEW FLYING FORTRESS, PROVEN UNDER FIRE—Magnificent picture shows the U. S. Army Air Corps' B-17-E,

newest type Flying Fortress, in flight over Washington state's Cascade range. Earlier models, less efficient than this one, have been doing a job on the Japs attacking Java.

Allies Abandon Batavia But Drive Japs From Bandoeng

Axis Drive Against Australia Seen

Japs Bombing Java Troops Continuously

(By The Associated Press) BANDOENG, Java, March 6.—Dutch and Allied defense forces have evacuated Batavia, once-principal capital of the Netherlands East Indies empire, it was announced today, while the Japanese invaders occupied all of the northwestern Java and all but cut the island in half by capturing Jogjakarta for the east.

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER WASHINGTON, March 6 (AP)—A powerful drive against Australia, designed to knock out the Darwin naval base and envelope the whole north coast of the continent, was predicted here today as Japan's next move in her lightning campaign to dominate the entire southwest Pacific before the United Nations can hope to take the offensive.

Defenders Hope To Make Stand In Java Mountains

LONDON, March 6 (AP)—Dutch forces, in a terrific frontal attack, drove the Japanese from a section of the plains of Bandoeng which the invaders occupied yesterday, Reuters reported from Bandoeng today. (Other dispatches from Bandoeng reported Allied recapture of one unidentified point.) The Japanese have withdrawn to the north, Reuters said. Heavy artillery fire in the mountain defenses to the north could be heard in Bandoeng.



"NO TIRES"—HENDERSON—Price Administrator Leon Henderson points his traditional cigar at a chart in his Washington office following his announcement that the nation faces the immediate future without "a single pound of rubber" for 30,000,000 passenger cars and may be forced to take tires from some private users. (NEA TELEPHOTO).

FDR Signs Biggest Appropriation Bill

Patriotic Band To Be Organized Tuesday Night

Like to play in a band? If so, you are urged to report with your band instrument at 8 o'clock next Tuesday night at the new high school. Every man in Pampa over 17 years of age is being invited to join with this band. Those in charge of organizing it are doing so in the belief that Pampa needs a band to participate in Civilian Defense activities.

Death Takes Tom Mooney

SAN FRANCISCO, March 6 (AP)—Tom Mooney, 58, labor leader who served 22 years in prison for the 1916 San Francisco preparedness parade bombing died in St. Luke's hospital here early today. The grey-haired Mooney, released in 1939 from San Quentin prison where he had grown old, underwent his fourth major abdominal operation last Monday.

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WASHINGTON, March 6 (AP)—A \$32,702,737 appropriation bill—the largest in history—was signed today by President Roosevelt to provide vast additional funds for the army, lend-lease aid, and the maritime commission. The new allotments brought to more than \$142,000,000 the total appropriations thus far for defense and war during the years 1941, '42 and '43.

By ROGER D. GREENE Associated Press War Editor Dutch headquarters acknowledged today that Allied troops had abandoned the wrecked capital city of Batavia and that the outnumbered United Nations defenders were being worn down by greatly superior Japanese invasion forces amid violent battles flaring all over the island of Java.

Reds Finish Encirclement Of 16th Army

(By The Associated Press) The Russian encirclement of the 16th German army about Staraya Russa was coupled today with a construction of the Nazi-held Rzhev-Vyazma pocket on the central front through recapture of Yekhnov. Yekhnov is a Ugra river town 120 miles southwest of Moscow and 50 miles southeast of Vyazma, skirting in Russian thrusts westward toward Smolensk. Soviet authorities said it had been heavily fortified and reinforced by German troops ferried east by plane.

API Meeting Postponed Week

Date of the regular monthly meeting of the Panhandle chapter of the American Petroleum Institute, originally set for Tuesday, has been changed to the following Tuesday, March 17. R. T. McNally, chairman of the chapter, said the change was made in order to secure a speech by Dr. Ira Williams of the Huber corporation, Borger, who will speak here on "Synthetic Rubber."

Selectee Runs Amuck, Wounds Five Men

EL PASO, March 6 (AP)—Five persons are in serious condition of stab wounds inflicted by a young Mexican selectee who ran amuck last night on a Texas and Pacific train as it left the union depot here. The Mexican was being sent to a military post from the Fort Bliss reception center. After stabbing the five passengers, he escaped from the train by jumping from a window, severing his little finger on the broken glass.

Otis Pumphrey Goes To Lubbock

Otis R. Pumphrey, for six years manager of Harris Food store here, will leave Monday for Lubbock where he will become distributor for Southern State Foods, Inc., Dallas. Mrs. Pumphrey and her son Dickey, 3, will remain in Pampa for a week, before moving to Lubbock where they will join Mr. Pumphrey. Mr. Pumphrey has been with the Harris organization for 10 years. He was at Borger, then Amarillo, came to Pampa in 1936 and opened the first Harris store here. In 1937 a second store was opened. This was sold in 1941 to Ideal.

Pampa Pythians At Borger Meeting

Pampa Knights of Pythias met at Borger last night and helped with the election of officers for the Borger Knights of Pythias lodge which was reorganized at the meeting. Al W. Libbie was elected chancellor and declared today that his gallant stand in the Philippines had made him the most popular figure of the Pacific war. The newspaper said such an appointment would be welcomed by Australians.

Male Escorts Will Not Be Lacking At Tulsa U. Dance

TULSA, Okla., March 6 (AP)—There'll be no feminine wallflowers on the University of Tulsa campus tonight—even if the draft is reducing the supply of male escorts. Tulsa's co-eds complained recently of a shortage of men due to the war, so the gallants of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity came to the rescue with tonight's dance.

Temperatures In Pampa

Table showing temperatures in Pampa for various times of the day: 6 p. m. Thursday 49, 9 p. m. Thursday 45, Midnight Thursday 43, 7 a. m. Today 41, 8 a. m. Today 39, 9 a. m. Today 37, 10 a. m. Today 35, 11 a. m. Today 33, 12 p. m. Today 31, 1 p. m. Today 29, 2 p. m. Today 27, 3 p. m. Today 25, Thursday's maximum 47, Thursday's minimum 23.

Mexican Governor Wounded At Party

MEXICO CITY, March 6 (AP)—Gov. Alfredo Zarate Albaran, of the state of Mexico, was reported shot in the stomach, and perhaps fatally wounded last night, during a party at the state capital of Toluca. Mexico City police, on request of Mexico state authorities, detained Deputy Fernando Ortiz Rubio, leader of the permanent commission of the state legislature. The deputy, police said, said he was at the governor's party when the shooting took place but did not actually witness it. He said he left the building during the following turmoil, passed by his house for weapons, and chased a fleeing car toward Mexico City, 40 miles away. Police reported they found a Thompson machine gun and two revolvers in the deputy's car.

No Grumbling Heard At Tax Windows

By IRVING PERLMETER WASHINGTON, March 6 (AP)—War-time America isn't grumbling at the income tax window this year. That's the verdict of collectors in all parts of the country, who were questioned by the treasury. Grumbling? One collector in a corn belt state told of the laundry woman who came in recently and paid her tax bill—it came to exactly 44 cents. The next day, she returned to blurt out a conscience-stricken confession that she had overstated a welfare contribution by 50 cents, and begged permission to pay the 3 extra pennies due the government. In another section, a young man wearing the uniform of the army air corps insisted on paying his tax, although the law permitted him to postpone it until after the war.

War Bulletins

WASHINGTON, March 6 (AP)—George Sylvester Viereck, one-time regular contributor to nationally-circulated magazines who was charged by the government with using the congress to spread Nazi propaganda, faced two to six years imprisonment and a fine of \$3,000 today after being convicted of violating the foreign agents registration act.

U. S. Will Send Mission To India

WASHINGTON, March 6 (AP)—The United States is sending a mission to India, the state department announced today, to explore the possibilities of American help in creating a great supply base there for the United Nations. Personnel of the mission was not disclosed, but the announcement said it would proceed to India "as soon as possible."

Crozier Appointed

AUSTIN, March 6 (AP)—Harry Benze Crozier of Dallas, newspaperman, today was appointed by Governor Coke R. Stevenson as a member of the state unemployment compensation commission.

Group of Doughboys

They include kings and poets, soldiers and statesmen, who have served England and the Empire with special merit. The building has been a "must" for all tourists visiting London. It is near the historic Thames river.

Aviation Cadet Killed At Randolph Field

SAN ANTONIO, March 6 (AP)—Aviation Cadet Arthur P. Freeman, 26, of Randolph field was killed instantly Thursday night when his biplane training plane crashed in a field three miles north of Bandoeng. The ship did not burn but was badly wrecked. Cause of the accident is being investigated.

I HEARD . . .

City Manager Steve Matthews commenting on the improvement gained by scraping snow off the streets and piling it in the center of the street. "Maybe you didn't notice, but doing it this way sure helped out drainage, and we don't have the slushy streets we've had in the past."

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ZALE'S
America's Fastest Growing Jewellers

SALE STARTS SATURDAY, 9 a. m.

BE HERE FOR THESE SENSATIONAL VALUES!

MARCH OF VALUES!

Buy Now For Graduation and Save!



32 - Pc. SET
CHINA
Service for 6
50c a Week! **\$3.39**

THE GREATEST BARGAINS IN ZALE'S HISTORY!

ZALE'S CLEARANCE SALE is something that will long be remembered. Just look at these drastic reductions. Every item a value sensation. NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY! Plan ahead for the events to come. . . . GRADUATION . . . BIRTHDAYS . . . ANNIVERSARIES . . . JUNE WEDDINGS and it is not too early this year to Lay-A-Way for Christmas.

Buy Now For June Brides and Save!

BUY DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS AND SLAP THE JAPS

10-K Solid Gold
Baby Rings
Special During March of Value Week! **27c**

ODDS & ENDS OF CHINA & GLASSWARE

While They Last
2c Each
CUPS • SAUCERS
PLATES • PLATTERS
BOWLS



GENERAL ELECTRIC
IRON
Guaranteed Reg. \$3.95
25c Week **1.99**

75c & \$1.00
Value Leather
WATCH BANDS **9c**

Sterling
SILVER HEARTS, Ea. **3c**
Regular 69c.

NOW YOU CAN OWN A SERVICE OF SOLID

STERLING SILVER

SAVE **40%**

Choice Of Either Pattern

Comparative Prices and Savings

	Price Per Dozen	Reg. Price	Sale Price
Dinner Knives	\$44.00	\$26.40	
Dinner Forks	53.00	31.80	
Teaspoons	21.00	12.60	
Salad Forks	35.00	31.00	
Ice Teaspoons	34.00	20.40	
Cream			
Soup Spoons	36.00	21.60	
Oyster or Cocktail Forks	24.00	14.40	
After Dinner Coffee Spoons	14.00	8.40	

4-Pc. STARTER SET

TROUSSEAU
A New Pattern

SALAD FORK
DESSERT KNIFE
DESSERT FORK
DESSERT SPOON
750
No money down—50c week Reg. \$12.50

JOAN of ARC
A New Pattern

DIAMOND VALUES

SAVE **33 1/3%** ON THESE LOW PRICES

12 DIAMOND MATCHED PAIR

"Her Majesty" a perfectly matched pair. Brilliant 12 diamond ensemble. A perfect pair for the perfect girl.

Was \$159.50
SALE PRICE **\$106.33**
No Money Down \$3.00 Weekly

SOLITAIRE

A smartly designed ring. A gift that she will long remember. And at a price that will, without a doubt, never be repeated.

Was \$50.00
SALE PRICE **\$33.33**
No Money Down 75c Weekly

5 DIAMOND WEDDING BAND

Here is a value that you will long remember. 5 diamonds in a quality modern design mounting.

No Money Down
\$7.95
50c Weekly

5 DIAMOND WEDDING PAIR

This gorgeous "Sweetheart Pair" is an exclusive Zale design. Finest quality; generous size diamonds.

Was \$47.50
SALE PRICE **\$31.67**
No Money Down 50c Weekly



KEY CHAINS **69c**

Regular \$1.50

CROSS & CHAIN **69c**

Gold Filled
Ideal Easter Gift. Reg. \$1.00

TIE CHAINS **69c**

Reg. \$1.50

PEN & PENCIL SET **49c**

Reg. \$1.85

WATER SET **69c**

7 Pc. Blue
Will make a grand gift. 7 glasses and a large size water pitcher.

EVANS LIGHTER and CIGARETTE CASE COMB. **\$1.95**
Reg. \$2.95

GRUEN WATCHES

NEW 1940 MODELS

SAVE **33 1/3%** ON THESE PRICES

Vero-Chin Cadene
GRUEN
Tiny, dependable, 15 jewels, yellow or pink gold filled, Guildite back.
\$33.75
75c A WEEK

Vero-Chin Colonia
GRUEN
17 jewel Precision movement, yellow or pink gold filled, Guildite back.
\$37.50
75c A WEEK

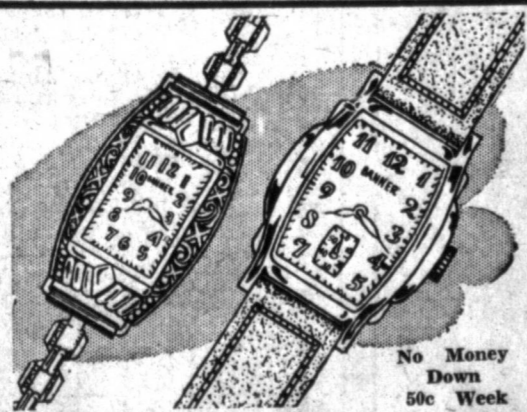
Vero-Chin Ariel
GRUEN
Smartly styled, 15 jewels, yellow or pink gold filled case, Guildite back.
\$45.00
75c A WEEK

Vero-Chin Eldridge
GRUEN
17 jewel Precision movement, yellow or pink gold filled case. Credit.
\$55.00
\$1 A WEEK

BANNER WATCHES

Fully Guaranteed
Choice of Styles
Special Savings

8.95
Ladies' or Gents'



No Money Down 50c Week

Nationally Known
"LADY BETTY"
Silverware
\$5.95

26-Piece set of guaranteed silver-plate. Made by a nationally famous maker of quality silver-plate. Only a few sets to be sold at this low price. Come in early for your set.

26-Piece Service for Six Chest not inc.

Odd Pieces LUGGAGE **40% OFF!**

MAIL ORDERS FILLED SAME DAY RECEIVED
Zales, 101 N. Cuyler Pampa

Gentlemen: Please Send Me:

Name _____
Address _____
Employed by _____
Reference _____
I prefer to Pay: Weekly () Monthly

GLADSTONE BAG

Genuine cowhide, sturdy construction, a grand useful gift for any man.
No Money Down **8.95**
50c Week



Open Sat. 'Till 9 P. M.

ZALE'S
America's Fastest Growing Jewellers
101 N. CUYLER, PAMPA

Ladies BIRTHSTONE RINGS
No Money Down 50c Week
Reg. \$7.95 \$12.95

Men's INITIAL RINGS
No Money Down 50c Week
Reg. \$7.95 \$12.95

7-Pc. CONSOLE SET
A grand bridge prize. Cut glass bowl and holders. With candles included at this price. **6.95**

NO MONEY DOWN — 50c WEEK

In the CHURCHES

Editors note: Notices to be added to this church calendar and any changes which are to be made in the calendar should be typed and mailed or brought to The News office by 9 o'clock Friday morning.

FRANCIS AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST
Guy V. Caskey, minister. 9:45 a. m. Bible school. 10:45 a. m. preaching.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH
901 North Frost street. 9:30 a. m. Sunday school. 11 a. m. Sunday service.

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Rev. Russell G. West, minister. 9:00 North Frost street. 10 a. m. Sunday school.

KINGSMILL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Robert Bonner, pastor. Due to so many persons of the Kingsmill community moving away in recent months, members have decided to discontinue their church services.

MCCULLOUGH METHODIST CHURCH
2100 Alcock Street
Rev. Robert L. Gilpin, minister. 9:45 a. m. Church school. 11 a. m. Morning worship service.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Rev. Bruce Greer, pastor. 9:45 a. m. Sunday school. 11 a. m. preaching. 7 p. m. Sunday night evangelistic service.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. Robert Boshen, minister. 9:45 a. m. The Church school. 11 a. m. Common worship. 8 p. m. Evening worship.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. E. M. Dunsworth, pastor. 9:45 a. m. Sunday school. 10:50 a. m. Morning worship. 5:45 p. m. Men's prayer meeting.

CHURCH OF GOD
701 Campbell Street
Rev. Rome Brown, pastor. 7:15 p. m. Friday. Young People's service. 10 a. m. Sunday. Sunday school. 11 a. m. Regular preaching.

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Rev. E. W. Henshaw minister. 8 a. m. Holy communion. 9:45 a. m. Junior church worship.

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
823 West Francis
Rev. A. L. James, pastor. Sunday school, 9:45 a. m. Morning worship, 11 a. m. subject: "God's Expectation and Disappointment."

THE HOUSE OF PRAYER
1037 South Barnes Street
Rev. P. C. Kirby, pastor. 10 a. m. Sunday school. 11 a. m. Preaching. 7:30 p. m. Evangelistic service.

CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
Albert Smith, evangelist. Bible study, 9:45 a. m. Preaching, 10:45 a. m. subject: "Partakers of the Divine Nature."

HARRAH METHODIST CHURCH
South Barnes Street
Rev. Newton Starnes, pastor. Church school, 9:45 a. m. Sunday is Young People's day in the Methodist church.

BUY UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS
WAR NEEDS MONEY!
It will cost money to defeat our enemy aggressors. Your government calls on you to help now.

BUY DEFENSE BONDS
Employment in American aircraft industry is 390,000. Weekly payrolls are nearly \$15,000,000.

Market Briefs
NEW YORK, March 6 (AP)—Stock market speculative and investment forces were unable to shake off war and tax pessimism.

NEW YORK STOCK LIST
Sales High Low Close
Am Can 8 61 60 60 1/2
Am Smelt & R 24 28 28 28 1/2

NEW YORK CURE
Sales High Low Close
Am Cyan B 12 12 12 12 1/2
Chiles Service 9 9 9 9 1/2

OKLAHOMA CITY LIVESTOCK
OKLAHOMA CITY, March 6 (AP)—(US DA)—Cattle 1,110 calves 300; common and medium steers steady.

FORT WORTH LIVESTOCK
FORT WORTH, March 6 (AP)—(US DA)—Cattle 1,110 calves 300; common and medium steers steady.

KANSAS CITY LIVESTOCK
KANSAS CITY, March 6 (AP)—(US DA)—Cattle 1,110 calves 300; common and medium steers steady.

CHICAGO GRAIN
CHICAGO, March 6 (AP)—Wheat: May 1.29 1/2, 1.29 1/2, 1.29 1/2, 1.29 1/2

CHICAGO PRODUCE
CHICAGO, March 6 (AP)—Butter firm; 90 centralized cartons 33 1/2; other prices unchanged.

Candidates For TU Sweetheart Named
AUSTIN, March 6 (AP)—Because of intense student interest the official committee today released the names of candidates for the title of University of Texas sweetheart.

Two Perish In Crash Of Army Plane
MITCHELL FIELD, N. Y., March 6 (AP)—Two members of a three-man crew perished in the crash of an army plane into the ocean yesterday off Barnegat Light, N. J.

READ THE CLASSIFIED ADS
Heflin Figures How To Pay Income Tax
HOUSTON, March 6 (AP)—State Representative Jim Heflin has figured how to pay his income taxes.

"BETTER CLEANING ALWAYS"
Pampa Dry Cleaners
304 N. Cuyler Dr. P. O. J. V. New

Mrs. Keck, 52, Dies Suddenly
Mrs. Ella Maude Keck, 52, died suddenly in a local hospital Thursday night following an operation on February 28.

Frenchmen Really Working Now For German Masters
NEW YORK, March 6 (AP)—British bombers in their devastating raid on Paris were blasting at factories turning out war material for Germany.

Coke Asked About Moving Japs From Coast To Texas
AUSTIN, March 6 (AP)—Governor Coke E. Stevenson said today he had received inquiries as to whether some of the Japanese being moved from the Pacific coast could be located in Texas.

Ranch Woman To Experiment With Rubber Plants
DALHART, March 6 (AP)—Mrs. R. L. Duke, Panhandle pioneer and XIT ranch personality, has arranged for experimental culture of 250 Guayule rubber plants in Dalhart.

Wm. T. Fraser & Co.
The Insurance Men
115 W. Kingsmill Phone 1044

Miami Juniors Postpone Play Until March 18
MIAMI, March 6—The junior play which was to have been given Thursday night, March 5, has been postponed because of bad roads and other conditions.

BUY U. S. DEFENSE BONDS
With the money you save on shoe repairs—
GOODYEAR SHOE SHOP
D. W. BAKER
One Door West of Perkins Drug

BUY DEFENSE BONDS
Read the Classified Ads

BUY DEFENSE BONDS

BUY DEFENSE BONDS

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BUY DEFENSE BONDS

BUY DEFENSE BONDS

BUY DEFENSE BONDS

BUY DEFENSE BONDS

BUY DEFENSE BONDS

BUY DEFENSE BONDS

Phillips 66
LIFE SAVER FOR Cold Weather Starting

Are you all at sea about what to do when your motor suddenly refuses to start because the temperature is low?

Phillips 66
Remember, the Orange and Black 66 Shield is High Test Headquarters for car owners.

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Help Pay your Income Tax With Money you Save
By Wise Use Of Your Electric Refrigerator

Yes, your electric refrigerator enables you to buy your week's supply of groceries at the week end special prices.

Southwestern PUBLIC SERVICE Company

Southwestern PUBLIC SERVICE Company

Southwestern PUBLIC SERVICE Company

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SERIAL STORY

KINGS ROW

BY HENRY BELLAMANN

CURLEY ABSCONDS

Drake walked across the lawn and stopped to straighten a row of sea shells that bordered a rectangular flower bed near the drive. It had been his Aunt Mamie's favorite spot. All of her pet plants flourished here. It was looking a little withered just now, but of course it was late September. He'd get the place fixed up—have the house painted and the low picket fence taken down. There were really many repairs to be made. No wonder the house didn't rent. He had never looked at it closely before. It was dilapidated, that's what it was—downright dilapidated.

He heard the telephone ringing. He went slowly and indifferently toward the house. It was Mr. Wakefield calling.

"Could you come down here to the bank for a few minutes?"

"Why, certainly."

Half an hour later he faced Mr. Wakefield at the cashier's window. Mr. Wakefield came back and unlocked the heavy oak door.

"You've overdrawn a little, you know?"

"Overdrawn?"

"Yes. Let me see, I think about eighty dollars, or so, nothing to speak of."

"But—could I speak to Mr. Curley?"

"Mr. Curley's in Texas. Went down on business. I expect him back next week."

"But I thought I had more'n a thousand dollars in my account!"

"How could you be that far off?"

Mr. Wakefield smiled again.

"No. Sure enough, Mr. Wakefield. I haven't been spending any money—not much. And, on the first of July there must have been about a thousand dollars put in."

"Well, well. I see, Drake. I guess Mr. Curley just overlooked it. But he's usually very punctilious, indeed."

"What about my account?"

"Well, we'll fix that up. It's just a matter of a few days. I can arrange that myself. You won't require the whole amount, of course?"

"No, certainly not."

"Mr. Curley ought to be back on Tuesday. I'll call you."

On the way back to his own window, Mr. Wakefield stopped to speak to Percy Davis. They chatted for a moment.

"Um," Mr. Wakefield grunted noncommittally, but there was a slightly troubled look in his eye. Mr. Curley was a reticent man, but he usually discussed such matters with someone, Mr. Wake-

field tried to recall the terms of Rhodes Livingstone's will, but he was pretty sure that Curley had an absolute freedom in managing the estate.

All through the morning Mr. Wakefield was somewhat distraught. He always walked home to mid-day dinner, leaving the bank exactly at half-past twelve. Today he left fifteen minutes earlier.

When he returned, Mr. Wakefield waited on several customers. Then he called Percy Davis. Davis was a round-faced elderly man who had been in the Farmers Exchange for many years.

"Yes, sir, Mr. Wakefield."

"Come on back to the vault with me, Percy."

"Yes, sir."

"They entered the vault."

"Which is Mr. Curley's box?"

"Right up there, Mr. Wakefield, that brown one."

"Has he another?"

"No, sir. He keeps all of his personal papers in there, and the three—no, four estates he's executor and trustee for."

"I see. Hand it down here to me a minute."

MR. WAKEFIELD took the box and hefted it.

"It's empty."

Davis stared, his little button mouth making a perfect O.

Mr. Wakefield spoke casually.

"Percy."

"Yes, sir, Mr. Wakefield."

"There's no use you and me trying to fool each other. We've got to face this in a few hours, anyhow. Might as well be now."

Percy sat down on the low ladder.

"Yes, sir, I guess so."

"Well, unless I'm mightily mistaken the president of the Farmers Exchange has skipped out—probably with everything he could lay his hands on!"

THE Farmers Exchange scandal was the prevailing sensation for a month. There were all sorts of stories and rumors. The bald fact remained: James Cuthbert Curley, president of the Farmers Exchange Bank, had stolen money and run away. Presumably he had gone to Central or South America. Efforts were being made to find him but no one was particularly hopeful of success. Certain bank funds were missing. Stockholders would not lose anything, but the trust funds were gone. Drake McHugh was penniless. The house on Union street was his, and Mr. Wakefield arranged a mortgage so that Drake would have some funds to live on for a while.

No one guessed how bewildered

Drake was by this ill fortune. He had simply never thought about money at all. He sold his horse and buggy, and began to look for a job. No one wanted him.

Kings Row watched. Like any pack of the wild they waited for the victim to falter. But they were at least temporarily disappointed. Drake looked as usual. He whistled as he walked. He was persistent in his search for work. He was offered a job at the livery stable, but he hadn't come to that yet. He stayed on at the house on Union street. Only when he was inside of it with the doors closed did he show his deep disquiet.

He made Randy promise not to let Parris know. No use troubling Parris. It never occurred to him that Parris had money and he didn't. It was simply that he didn't want Parris bothered about this. Then, of course, he'd get it all fixed up some way pretty soon. But Drake did not "fix things up." The winter passed, and he had no job. He tried for anything he thought he might be able to do. Everywhere the men he talked to were good-humored and jocular—sometimes a shade contemptuous. By spring he was becoming sensitive. He avoided mention of a job unless he was actually making application.

Then he began to pretend he wasn't looking for work.

He left the boardinghouse and cooked his own meals. At first he made a frightful mess of it, but later he improved. When Randy found out about it she came sometimes late in the evening and helped him. She put the rooms in order and taught him something about helping himself. By the end of the summer his cash was running alarmingly low.

Now he did his own washing, and dried the clothes in the kitchen so no one would know.

People said Drake McHugh was drinking.

"Yes, sir, I saw him staggering out of Fritz Bachman's luncheon room just last Saturday. Drunk as a fool."

Fritz Bachman's luncheon room, which was patronized by railroad men, was also a convenient "blind tiger."

Somehow Drake found himself going rather often to Fritz Bachman's place. Sleep came with increasing difficulty. He had made it a habit to stop by the smelly little luncheon room when he left Randy's house at night. It was directly on the way home. He exchanged a few rough jokes with Fritz, gulped a glass of whisky, and went home. Randy knew nothing of this.

(To Be Continued)

L'I' ABNER



What Will Sweetlips Say?



By AL CARP



RED RYDER



Just in Time



By FRED HARMAN



ALLEY OOP



A Direct Hit



By V. T. HAMLIN



FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS



Sounds Logical



By MERRILL BLOSSER



Americans Better Fighters Than Japs, Claim Naval Experts

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER
WASHINGTON, March 6 (AP)—Naval experts said today that three months of sea war in the Pacific had produced positive evidence that, qualitatively, American ships and men are more than a match for the ships and men of Japan.

Every engagement in which surface and air units of the United States fleet have participated to date, it was said, has furnished proof of the American edge on ship-for-ship, man-for-man basis.

Because of this evidence, the experts said, the American fleet stands up in action against the enemy, but rather how quickly Japan's numerical superiority can be equalized or overcome in the western Pacific.

This in turn is a production problem for the nation's ship builders and armament makers who are working on it, according to the available indications, at a speed better than they had attained last fall before the Pacific was started.

At that time they had trimmed approximately a year off the original 1946-47 schedule for completing the two-ocean fleet program.

Before the war started there was general acceptance in naval circles of the belief that American officers and seamen were better trained than the Japanese, that American guns were more effective, that American ships were tougher and could hit harder.

Since Dec. 7 the navy high command has made exhaustive studies of combat data to discover whether and to what extent that belief was correct.

Despite the fact that the Japanese, with their overwhelming forces, have been able to advance the whole length of the China sea, the conclusion has been that American forces have proved themselves qualitatively superior to sea fighters.

BUY DEFENSE BONDS

Circle Dot Ranch Brings Top Price

SPRINGER, N. M., March 6 (AP)—The purchase of the 52,100-acre Circle Dot estate, northeast of Springer by Frank E. (Shanty) Sauter was announced today.

Sauter declined to reveal the purchase price or estimate the value of the holdings, but the deal was the biggest in northeastern New Mexico in a decade.

The sale was made by the Texas Cattle company, a part of the Kell estate of Wichita Falls. Sauter, who already has big holdings in this region, will use the additional land for development of high-grade Hereford cattle, in which he is specialized.

The Circle Dot, containing little wasteland and 500 acres of irrigated land, can run about 2,800 head of cattle, it was estimated.

Negro To Die in Electric Chair

DALLAS, March 6 (AP)—McKinley Morris, negro convicted of fatally slugging W. C. Jones, attendant at a filling station and fleeing after taking \$32 from the man's wallet, was sentenced to die in the electric chair April 16 when called before Judge Grover Adams today.

FUNNY BUSINESS



HOLD EVERYTHING



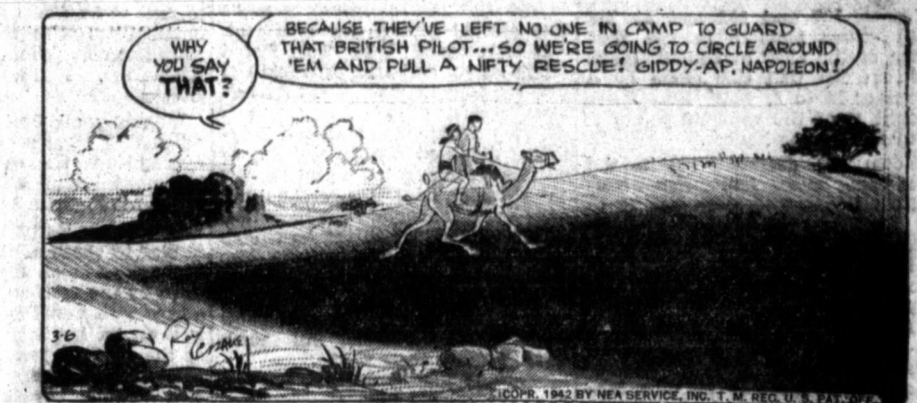
WASH TUBS



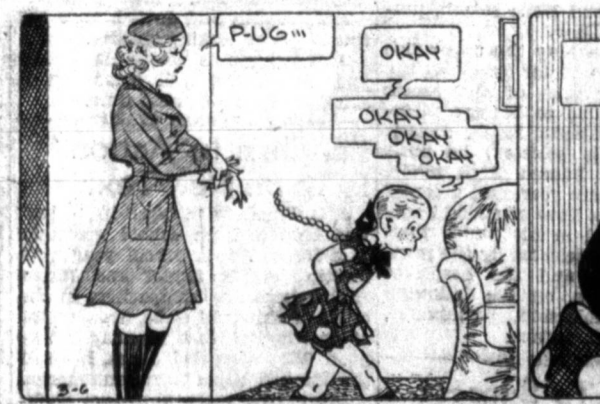
Nice Strategy



By ROY CRANE



BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES



By J. R. WILLIAMS



OUR BOARDING HOUSE



OUT OUR WAY



By J. R. WILLIAMS



OUR BOARDING HOUSE



